

US CLAIMS

1. Fabric treatment composition comprising a textile compatible carrier and water insoluble particles having a layered structure comprising oxygen atoms and silicon and/or phosphorus atoms, and comprising organic functional groups which are bonded to silicon and/or phosphorus atoms in the layers by direct covalent bonds between the silicon and/or phosphorus atoms and a carbon atom.
2. Composition according to Claim 1 wherein said organic functional groups are selected from groups which are capable of self cross-linking and/or of forming covalent bonds to cellulosic and/or proteinaceous fibres.
3. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein said organic functional groups comprise electrophilic groups.
4. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein said organic functional groups comprise thiol groups.
5. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein said one or more organic functional groups are selected from the group consisting of: acid anhydrides, epoxides, acid chlorides, isocyanates, azetidinium-containing groups, carboxylic acids, vinyl sulfones, aldehydes, ketones, enol esters, aziridines, azalactones and mixtures thereof.
6. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein said water insoluble particles comprise layers which further comprise atoms selected from magnesium, aluminium, nickel, zirconium and mixtures thereof.
7. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein said water insoluble particles are of a clay in which said organic functional groups have been introduced during formation of the clay.

8. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein said water insoluble particles are of an organophyllosilicate.

5 9. A composition according to Claim 1 which is a main wash detergent composition and wherein said textile compatible carrier comprises a detergent active compound.

10 10. A composition according to Claim 1 which is a fabric conditioner and wherein said textile compatible carrier comprises one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of fabric softening and conditioning agents.

15 11. A composition according to Claim 1 further comprising one or more components selected from the group consisting of builders and enzymes.

12. A composition according to Claim 1 comprising from 0.01% to 50% by weight of said water insoluble particles.

20 13. A composition according to Claim 12 comprising from 0.1% to 20% by weight of said water insoluble particles.

25 14. Use of water insoluble particles having a layered structure comprising oxygen atoms and silicon and/or phosphorus atoms, and comprising organic functional groups which are bonded to silicon and/or phosphorus atoms in the layers by direct covalent bonds between the silicon and/or phosphorus atoms and a carbon atom in the treatment of fabric.

30 15. Use according to Claim 14 wherein said treatment is part of a domestic laundering process.

35 16. A method of treating fabric comprising treating the fabric with water insoluble particles having a layered structure comprising oxygen atoms and silicon and/or phosphorus atoms, and comprising organic functional groups which are bonded to silicon and/or phosphorus atoms in the

1005240-120501

layers by direct covalent bonds between the silicon and/or phosphorus atoms and a carbon atom.

17. A method according to Claim 16 which comprises the step  
of heating the treated fabric.

5

1005240-120501